

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

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[Signature]

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.



for the year

1963

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(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH) COMMITTEE

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WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE
UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year
1963

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1963. I have prepared this along the lines of those of recent years and have done my best to fulfil the requirements of the Ministry of Health and to give an interesting summary of sanitary circumstances.

I have included separate reports from the Public Health Inspectors, Surveyors, Housing Officers and received assistance from other Officers of the Councils.

The health of the Area, the vital statistics and pattern of the causes of death were similar to those of Southern England during the year.

The first three months of the year constituted the coldest winter since that of 1740. Surprisingly, old people stood the cold very well and caravan dwellers appeared to be able to keep their limited living spaces warm, but the hot water systems of modern houses proved to be vulnerable and the thermal insulation of most houses poor. Alarm was felt towards the end of the spell when supplies of coal ran out.

I have refrained from including matters relating to the other half of my work which is, as Divisional Medical Officer of Health for the County Council.

In previous years I have estimated the population of parishes by apportioning the Registrar General's Estimates for each Rural District according to the number of names on the Electoral Lists. The irregularity of distribution of Council houses, containing as they do a comparatively large number of children, made these estimates inaccurate for parishes or parts of parishes. This year I have given tables of the figures of the 1961 Census.

I have not worked out rates where the figures are too small to give such a rate any significance.

The effect of immunisation in reducing the incidence of diphtheria and whooping cough should not be forgotten, and it is expedient and usual to add protection against tetanus. Apart from this the effectiveness of drugs against bacterial infections is of great importance.

The virus diseases remain one of the frontiers of public health. Influenza is still with us and spreads more quickly than ever before. The common cold remains a nuisance and a precursor of other infections. Measles remains an inevitable infection of children. It has a low mortality because of the effect of drugs on the prevention of complications, but a child died of this infection.

The effectiveness of poliomyelitis vaccination, especially of oral vaccine, has been most fortunate.

The research at Cirencester into the epidemiology of virus infections in general practice was most interesting and such investigations could usefully be routine. Vaccines against intestinal virus infections might be evolved.

The difficulties of water supply will be noted. The responsibility for supply will soon be taken over by the new Gloucestershire Water Board.

The extensions and proposed extensions of sewerage are described. An investigation into the sewerage of the Rural Districts was carried out by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Progress in housing is related, including Slum Clearance and the building of Council and Private houses and the improvement of many old houses.

I should like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Councils for their co-operation and understanding. I have to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their loyal support and other Officers of the Councils for their co-operation. I am grateful to the printers for their care in preparing this Report and my Clerk, Miss E. M. Hughes, for her careful work in compiling it and her assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates

				<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
England and Wales	...	...	...	18.2	12.2
Gloucestershire	...	...	...	19.5	11.4
Combined Forest Area	...	...	...	17.3 (18.6)	12.1 (12.8)
East Dean	...	...	...	17.4 (18.2)	12.8 (13.7)
Lydney R.D.	...	...	...	17.7 (20.2)	9.4 (10.6)
Newent R.D.	...	...	...	17.6 (19.3)	11.3 (11.2)
West Dean	...	...	...	16.8 (17.5)	13.5 (14.0)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population ; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the "corrected" rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There was one death associated with childbirth.

There were 25 deaths during the first year of life (14 male and 11 female), of these 15 were during the first week, 3 were from the end of the first week to the end of the fourth week and 7 were from the end of the fourth week to the end of the first year.

Numbers of Births and Deaths

				<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Excess of Births over Deaths</i>
East Dean	...	...	...	20,960	364	269	95
Lydney R.D.	...	...	...	13,220	234	124	110
Newent R.D.	...	...	...	8,930	157	101	56
West Dean	...	...	...	17,710	298	239	59
Total Area	...	...	...	60,820	1,053	733	320

Census Figures 1961

Parish and District	Population			Acreage	Private House- holds	Separate dwellings occupied	Rooms occupied	Density of occupation	
	Persons	Males	Females					Persons per room	Percent. of persons at more than 1½ per room
East Dean R.D.	20,862	10,448	10,414	30,475	6,414	6,334	29,958	0.70	6.9
Awre ...	1,805	932	873	5,067	533	531	2,677	0.67	9.6
Blaisdon ...	341	203	138	2,016	78	78	392	0.66	6.9
Churcham	739	349	390	3,238	238	236	1,263	0.59	6.5
Cinderford	6,918	3,448	3,470	3,925	2,190	2,168	9,861	0.70	6.2
Drybrook	2,832	1,414	1,418	1,678	877	852	3,804	0.75	9.4
Huntley ...	498	246	252	1,439	160	155	822	0.62	3.2
Littledean	1,378	705	673	1,568	406	404	1,940	0.68	5.9
Longhope	1,041	510	531	3,047	342	340	1,732	0.62	4.2
Mitcheldean	1,931	952	979	3,152	576	570	2,784	0.69	7.5
Ruardean	1,199	606	593	1,567	386	382	1,837	0.67	4.8
Ruspidge	2,180	1,083	1,097	3,779	628	618	2,846	0.77	7.4
Lydney R.D.	12,708	6,753	5,955	24,597	3,720	3,702	18,868	0.62	2.5
Alvington	407	211	196	1,636	124	124	608	0.67	4.2
Aylburton	812	397	415	1,883	253	253	1,267	0.64	2.6
Hewelsfield	380	181	199	1,811	126	126	747	0.51	2.4
Lydney	5,041	2,464	2,577	5,223	1,606	1,598	8,036	0.62	1.9
St Briavels	1,087	516	571	4,777	363	361	2,048	0.51	1.9
Tidenham	4,195	2,598	1,597	6,439	1,000	994	4,970	0.64	2.8
Woolaston	786	386	400	2,828	248	246	1,192	0.67	4.2

Census Figures 1961

Parish and District	Population			Acreage	Private House- holds	Separate dwellings occupied	Rooms occupied	Density of occupation	
	Persons	Males	Females					Persons per room	Percent. of persons at more than 1½ per room
Newent R.D.	8,734	4,307	4,427	40,845	2,688	2,672	13,887	0.62	5.3
Bromsberrow	239	102	137	1,810	67	67	388	0.56	13.7
Corse ...	463	230	233	2,220	144	144	718	0.64	4.8
Dymock	1,212	602	610	7,906	362	361	2,022	0.60	5.4
Hartpury	763	406	357	3,670	222	221	1,163	0.61	2.6
Kempley	255	128	127	1,593	77	77	404	0.65	4.3
Newent ...	3,167	1,579	1,588	8,091	963	954	4,716	0.66	6.4
Oxenhall	256	131	125	2,250	75	75	397	0.65	8.6
Pauntley ...	168	79	89	1,630	51	51	259	0.67	—
Redmarley	739	334	405	3,800	233	233	1,251	0.58	4.3
Rudford	241	107	134	1,213	79	79	470	0.51	—
Staunton	362	177	185	1,505	113	112	555	0.65	6.6
Taynton ...	394	196	198	2,521	139	139	713	0.56	4.3
Tibberton	279	138	141	1,406	96	92	500	0.58	1.8
Upleadon	196	98	98	1,230	67	67	331	0.59	4.1
West Dean R.D.	17,576	8,737	8,839	24,155	5,539	5,506	25,960	0.68	5.0
Coleford ...	3,546	1,756	1,790	2,060	1,084	1,078	5,075	0.70	5.6
English Bicknor	457	228	229	2,974	134	132	709	0.62	3.0
Lydbrook	2,465	1,211	1,254	1,223	751	751	3,498	0.69	4.3
Newland	963	481	482	4,771	322	321	1,577	0.61	4.4
Staunton	206	93	113	1,531	67	67	347	0.60	2.4
West Dean	9,939	4,968	4,971	11,596	3,181	3,157	14,754	0.68	5.1

Chief Causes of Death

						<i>Percentage of total deaths</i>
Coronary disease and angina	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	17.7
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	2.6
Vascular diseases of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5.6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6.4
Pneumoconiosis (21 deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	2.9
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2.7

Cancer Deaths

	East Dean	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean	Total
MALE					
Stomach ...	2	3	1	4	10
Lung and Bronchus ...	7	4	3	3	17
Other ...	14	7	2	7	30
Leukaemia ...	—	—	1	—	1
FEMALE					
Stomach ...	3	2	1	2	8
Lung and Bronchus ...	4	1	—	—	5
Breast ...	2	3	2	1	8
Uterus ...	3	—	1	6	10
Other ...	10	2	6	9	27
Leukaemia ...	2	1	—	1	4
TOTALS ...	47	23	17	33	120

CAUSES OF DEATH	East Dean		Lydney		Newent		West Dean		Total Area		
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other forms of infectious disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	23	24	14	9	7	10	14	19	58	62	120
Diabetes	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	2	1	6	7
Vascular disease of the nervous system	17	23	10	9	6	6	10	19	43	57	100
Coronary disease and angina	29	19	18	9	8	7	33	9	88	44	132
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	1	—	—	3	—	2	4	6	10
Other heart disease	18	26	10	10	6	8	24	28	58	72	130
Other circulatory disease	2	4	3	1	2	2	4	1	11	8	19
Influenza	1	1	—	—	—	1	4	2	5	4	9
Pneumonia	7	12	2	2	5	3	6	4	20	21	41
Bronchitis	16	3	3	2	9	1	10	3	38	9	47
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	2	1	1	—	8	—	12	1	13
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	2	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	5	3	8
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of the prostate	2	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	5
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	13	4	4	6	5	6	9	23	31	54
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	2	—	1	—	3	2	9	2	11
All other accidents	2	1	1	—	1	—	3	1	7	2	9
Suicide	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	136	133	74	50	54	47	132	107	396	337	733

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria

For the fifteenth year in succession there was no case of this disease.

Poliomyelitis

For the fourth year in succession there was no case. This is very satisfactory and can be attributed entirely to vaccination against this disease, especially by the oral vaccine.

Scarlet Fever

Nineteen cases were notified ; eight of these were in the Awre Parish and four in the St Briavels Parish, the others were scattered. This disease remains very mild.

Erysipelas

Two cases were notified, one at Blakeney and one at Ruardean.

Whooping Cough

Thirty-four notifications were received (19 in East Dean, 4 in West Dean, 9 in Newent and 2 in the Lydney Rural District). Those in the East Dean Rural District were scattered and occurred throughout the year, and those in the Newent Rural District were at Newent in the last quarter of the year. There were some cases at Tidenham in October which were not notified. A large proportion of the children concerned were known not to have been immunised, but a few children developed the disease in spite of being thus protected ; generally such children had a mild or indefinite attack.

Measles

A total of 746 cases were notified. In the East Dean Rural District there were 216 cases ; it was epidemic at Churcham in January and February, Huntley in April, Mitcheldean and Longhope in May and June, Cinderford in July and at Drybrook in October.

In the Newent Rural District there were 97 cases ; it was epidemic at Hartpury in March, Dymock in June, Newent in August and again at Dymock in November.

In the West Dean Rural District there were 249 cases ; it was epidemic at Berry Hill and English Bicknor in January and February, Coleford from July to October, Broadwell in October and at Yorkley in October and November.

In the Lydney Rural District there were 184 cases ; it was epidemic at Aylburton, in April Brockweir in July and Lydney from September to November.

A child of eighteen months died at Lydney in October of this disease.

Dysentery

At the end of 1962, a number of cases occurred amongst children attending the Broadwell Schools and members of their families ; 21 cases altogether were detected. Three cases remained infectious for over two months. Satisfactory hygienic precautions were taken at the School.

A sewer swab inserted in the School sewer in February did not give any dysentery bacteria on culture.

Of six persons notified in June as suffering from this disease only one was confirmed.

Food Poisoning

There was one case in the West Dean Rural District in which the cause was presumed to be staphylococcal toxin.

Three cases of confirmed infection by *Salmonella typhimurium* in the West Dean Rural District came to my attention. I was informed of one isolated case in the Newent Rural District in May.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There were seven notifications ; four in the Lydney Rural District and one in each of the other Districts.

Pneumonia

Four notifications were received (2 of primary and 2 of influenzal). This must be but a small proportion of the cases that arose.

Other Notifiable Diseases

No cases of meningococcal infection nor of acute encephalitis were notified ; nor of any other notifiable disease apart from those mentioned.

The School Returns gave the following information on chickenpox, mumps and rubella which are not notifiable :—

Chickenpox : This was epidemic at Newent in March, Lydney from March to July, Hewelsfield and Corse in July and Redbrook in November.

Mumps : This was epidemic at Beachley in May, Ruardean Hill in October and November and at Drybrook in December.

Rubella (German Measles) : There were a number of scattered cases and some at Awre in September.

Tuberculosis

Seventeen new cases were notified during the year. This is the lowest number in a year since I have been your Medical Officer of Health.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the four main towns of the Area, and also Mitcheldean and some factories. A visit from this Unit has usually been followed by a rise in notifications, but this is no longer the case.

There were four deaths from this disease.

This reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis is largely due to the use of drugs which are curative and reduce the amount of infection ; B.C.G. vaccination and better housing have been contributory factors.

Notifications during the Year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	6	2	—	1	9
Lydney	3	—	—	—	3
Newent	—	—	—	1	1
West Dean	2	1	1	—	4
TOTALS	11	3	1	2	17

Cases on Registers at the end of the Year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	84	55	6	14	159
Lydney	41	18	1	3	63
Newent	14	6	—	2	22
West Dean	89	32	14	13	148
TOTALS	228	111	21	32	392

GENERAL ITEMS

Nuclear Weapon Tests

Official investigation showed that the deposition of fall-out from the 1961 and 1962 Nuclear Weapon Tests reached a peak during 1963.

The Strontium 90 in milk rose from an average for the Country of 11.7 picocuries per gramme of Calcium in 1962 to 25.6 in 1963 ; the actual peak which was of 43 was reached in the middle of the year. It was much heavier in areas with heavy rainfall.

This radionucleide is regarded as particularly sinister because of its absorption into bones and it is highest in the bones of young children. For children in the 1 - 2 age group, it averaged 4 pc.Sr.90/gCa for the first half of 1963 compared with 2.4 for the year 1962. The amount of Strontium 90 absorbed is one quarter of that in the diet, milk being the principal source. It is expected to reach 7 in the bones in the latter part of 1963 and in 1964 and then to decline. The recommended

maximum permissible dose is regarded as 67 but whether 7 will have any effect remains to be seen. It is a risk that humanity could be better off without.

There was a comparable rise of Caesium 137 in milk being 135 pc/litre compared with 62 in 1962. This raises the radiation of the whole body but is not retained as long as Strontium 90, and the dose received was one third of that of the latter.

No Iodine 131 was detected in milk in 1963.

Nuclear Power Stations

The Berkeley Nuclear Power Station Liaison Committee was extended to include the new Oldbury Station which was being built.

The Berkeley Station made a useful contribution of 627 million units of electricity during the very cold winter (2nd November, 1962, to the end of February).

As part of the emergency scheme in case of an unforeseen accident, potassium iodide tablets are kept at Lydney Police Station. It is expected that if any accident happened the danger would be largely from the radionuclide Iodine 131 which is absorbed by the thyroid gland, and there is reason to believe that a single dose of iodide would so dilute the Iodine 131 ingested that only a little of the latter would be absorbed.

The gamma radiation within a half mile radius increased from 9.1 microroentgens per hour during the year July, 1960, to June, 1961, to 13.2 during the year October, 1962, to September, 1963. The increase in the 5 - 10 mile zone was to 11.7 and that at the testing points over 10 miles to 11.3. Some of this increase could be expected to be due to fall-out from Nuclear Weapon Tests.

The Strontium 90 at the testing points rose from 4.8 pc.Sr.90/gCa during the year July, 1960, to June, 1961, to 13.8 during the year July, 1962, to June, 1963. This was due to fall-out from Nuclear Weapon Tests.

Fluoridation of Mains Water

A study had been made by the Ministry of Health of the practice of adding fluoride to the mains water supplies in other countries to reduce caries in children's teeth, and the conclusion was reached that this was safe at a concentration of one part per million.

In December, 1962, the Minister of Health announced that he would be willing to approve proposals of local health authorities to fluoridate mains water. This was hotly contested in councils of all levels throughout the Country. The opposition was largely on principle but with some irrational argument.

The addition of fluoride to mains water would be the most effective way of administering it, but very little of the fluoride so added would be used in the formation of children's teeth and the effect on certain industries was not known, so the administration in some other way

might well be sought which would not involve the compulsory ingestion by persons who do not require fluoride.

The County Council declined to make proposals to add fluoride to water supplies. The Forest water sources contain only traces of fluoride but the Newent water contains 0.2 parts per million.

Sewer Swabs

No information was received of anyone in the Area who had been on holiday at Zermatt during the typhoid epidemic there. An investigation was carried out, by means of Moore's sewer swabs, to see if any organisms which cause typhoid or other water-borne diseases were present in the main sewers.

An investigation was also carried out of the Lydbrook stream in relation to the pollution of the water supply and of the Blackpool Valley streams where watercress grows. No typhoid organisms were found, but *Salmonella kiambu* was found in a sewer at Lydney and *Salmonella stanley* in the stream at Lydbrook. Both are organisms which cause food poisoning. Such an investigation is of limited value in an area such as this because a large proportion of the population does not have sewered lavatories.

Sanitation of Schools

All the schools in East Dean and West Dean have water carriage systems, and indeed all those in my Area except those at Bromsberrow, Staunton and St Briavels.

Analysts

Specimens and samples for bacteriological examination are normally sent to the Newport Public Health Laboratory. Dr R. D. Gray, the Director, and his staff have given excellent service for a number of years ; reports have always been prompt and positive results have been telephoned.

Samples for chemical analysis from the four Rural Districts are sent to the University of Bristol Laboratory under arrangements made by the County Council.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47

A few old persons living in poor conditions were kept under surveillance, but no application was made to Court to remove such a person to a hospital or institution. Many old people who might have had to be dealt with in this way were assisted by the Home Help Service to live at home. For a Council to apply for an Order to remove a person, that person must be living in insanitary conditions, be unable to care for himself or herself and not be receiving proper care and attention from another person.

Problem Families

The increased supervision of these families by Officers of the County Welfare Department with fuller co-operation and liaison with the Housing Departments and myself, was very useful. With this was the improvement of conditions at Newent Hostel which had become reasonably satisfactory, and the provision of small scattered "half-way" houses. The County Council's acceptance of responsibility for the rent in certain cases was of great help in dealing with those families who, by their own poor management, fell into arrears.

Highway Lay-bys

There is an urgent need for the elaboration of these to include water closets. This is not a problem particular to this Area, but one in every Rural District where A roads pass.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : MRS D. J. BRAIN

Vice-Chairman : MR M. BRAIN

Members (from May, 1963) : Councillors Mrs M. Simpson, Mrs M. M. Virgo, Mrs A. Weaving, R. J. Bevan, W. Bunn, H. C. Byett, E. Cooke, H. Cumberlin, J. I. Duberley, H. C. Gibbs, F. A. Haines, A. R. Hawkins, J. L. Jones, W. E. F. Jones, G. B. Keyse, M. V. Lark, H. J. Marfell, W. H. Meredith, W. Morris, P. S. Palmer, T. A. Trigg, M. Tucker, L. J. Tuffley, L. S. Wilce and W. Wilkins.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector : B. G. RISBEY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
(resigned 29.11.63)

Rodent Operator : C. BARNARD.

Statistics

Population=20,960 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1963).

Area=30,475 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,710.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1963, was £403,364.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1963, was £677.

Number of Live Births=364. Number of Deaths=269.

Excess of Births over Deaths=95.

Birth Rate=17.4 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a corrected rate of 18.2

Death Rate=12.1 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.07 this gives a corrected rate of 12.8.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	182	171	353	5	6	11	187	177	364
Still Births	1	4	5	—	—	—	1	4	5
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	1	2	3	—	1	1	1	3	4
1-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1

Number of Houses and Caravans, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to	
	Houses	Caravans	Mains Water Supply	Sewer
Awre ...	542	1	497	101
Blaisdon ...	83	1	56	0
Churcham ...	232	3	139	31
Cinderford ...	2,301	15	2,273	2,240
Drybrook ...	903	6	893	390
Huntley ...	160	1	129	50
Littledean ...	424	6	407	241
Longhope ...	359	20	299	26
Mitcheldean ...	608	9	551	256
Ruardean ...	375	15	361	90
Ruspidge ...	620	26	594	130
TOTALS ...	6,607	103	6,199	3,555

Mr A. H. Moore, the Rating Officer, provided the numbers of dwellings, caravans, and also of the properties connected to the mains water supply, except those at Huntley and Churcham and Dursley Cross Area of Longhope which were given by the Gloucester Corporation Water Engineer. The numbers of properties connected to main drainage were supplied by the Clerk.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr A. D. Parsons reports as follows :—

Public Health

Once again I have to report that the duties of the Public Health Department continued to increase beyond expectation. Without the

help of a second Additional Public Health Inspector the bare skeleton of essential duties only could be carried out.

It is regretted that legislative responsibilities were not given proper attention. A considerable amount of time was given to complaints and enquiries : advice was given on the categories, repairs and improvements, specifications and plans, eligibility for grants and drainage of houses. Time was also given to the inspection of food premises, Land Searches and investigations into suspected dysentery cases.

Altogether 1,062 visits and inspections were made connected with Public Health and 1,154 to do with houses.

Very little was done in the way of routine inspection of houses, factories, caravan sites, canteens, catering establishments, food shops, bakehouses and licensed premises.

At the end of November, the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr B. G. Risbey, terminated his appointment.

Moore's Swabs were placed in the main sewers and then examined bacteriologically for enteric organisms. The reports were negative but this was thought to be useful information to have, especially as individuals from the District had probably been to Zermatt during the typhoid epidemic there. Swabs were also placed in the three main water courses of the District but no pathogenic organisms were detected.

A further inspection was made of all the shops in the District to ascertain that all the old teething powders containing a compound of mercury had been withdrawn.

Several complaints were received in connection with food and these were investigated.

Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year and submitted to :—

Newport Public Health Laboratory

Seventy-three samples for bacteriological examination.

Bristol Public Health Laboratory and Analyst's Department

Six samples of the principal raw waters were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis ; all were found to be satisfactory.

Samples were taken in the investigation of water sources that it was proposed to add to the mains supply, but these were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Housing Act, 1957

PART II

Properties reported to the Council as being unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Action deferred	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Undertakings accepted not to use house for human habitation							13
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Undertakings converted to Demolition Orders					...	...	3
Closing Orders converted to Demolition Orders					...	...	2
Houses rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

PART III

No Clearance Orders were made during the year as houses which might have been dealt with in this way were dealt with individually as they became vacant.

PART V

Twenty-nine families were re-housed from 28 individual unfit properties. Certificates under the Housing Subsidies Act, 1956, were issued accordingly.

Twelve cases of statutory overcrowding were found of which six were re-housed by the Council.

Rent Act, 1957

Only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair : the owner of the house agreed to carry out the list of repairs required by the tenant.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection from the whole of the District, except Cinderford and Ruspidge, continued to be carried out by the two contractors, Messrs E. A. Bayliss and C. Bell. The work was carried out very efficiently and very few justified complaints were received.

A refuse collection for Wigpool and extensions of the collections at Ruardean Hill were started at the beginning of the year.

The refuse tips received regular attention and treatment for pests.

Consideration was given to the collection of refuse by the paper sack method. This would be especially beneficial in collecting from Old Persons' Bungalows, so that the refuse could be taken from the door instead of from the roadside.

Street Cleansing

Weekly or fortnightly collections were made from the 73 street litter bins distributed throughout the District. In the built-up areas and the main highway lay-bys, collections during the holiday periods were carried out twice a week.

Periodically the bins were disinfected and treated for pests.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Planning permission granted by the County Planning Authority during the year for individual caravans (all temporary)							10
Applications refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Applications withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/>
Total considered	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
							<hr/>

Number of Sites licensed

							<i>No. of Caravans</i>
Woodview Orchard	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Wyelands	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rocklands, Longhope	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Valley Road, Cinderford	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Queen's Farm, Churcham	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sites for individual caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
							<hr/>

A caravan stationed on the verge of the highway and occupied by an evicted family for a time, was not licensed nor granted Planning permission. The caravan was eventually burnt out before the threat of removal to a disused quarry could be carried out.

The Standard Conditions for caravan sites adopted by this Council were found to be too stringent for those with temporary permissions. The Council, therefore, adopted more lenient conditions for such short periods which do not involve the applicants in such great expense.

Gypsies who were found to have settled at Barrell Lane, May Hill, were eventually persuaded to move.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Three complaints were received and investigated. One was in connection with a factory and two were in connection with machinery in shops.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The annual licence for the only pet shop in the District was renewed. It was inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Preliminary work has already started in connection with the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

Animals killed on the Highways

In this District a number of sheep are killed by traffic on the highways. When the owners cannot be found these are removed on complaint from the Police. Seven sheep and one dog were so removed during the year.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Four hundred and eighty-one Land Searches made by solicitors under this Act, were dealt with for identification and observations and a number required up-to-date inspections of the properties concerned.

Drainage

An even greater number of visits were made this year (438) in relation to the drainage of properties ; there were 98 connections to the sewer and 17 septic tanks were installed. Sewer extensions were completed at The Hawthorns, Hawkwell Row and Morse Road, Drybrook, and Crooked End, Ruardean. These extensions involved a considerable number of advisory visits on the best means of connecting to the sewers and on sanitary improvements to the properties.

Only one report was required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the necessity of a sewer extension, and this was the extension from Mitcheldean to Plump Hill.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Mr C. Barnard continued with his duties as Rodent Operator, dealing with houses, business premises, schools, farms, factories, Council houses, refuse tips and sewage works.

The sewers in Cinderford, Ruspidge, Drybrook, Ruardean, Littledean and Mitcheldean were treated. Of the 70 manholes tested, 21 were found to be infested with rats. Sixty-three manholes were baited with poison consisting of bread mash and arsenic.

A report was received that black rats were seen in agriculture buildings near a main road ; the buildings were test baited but no evidence was found.

Twenty treatments were given for moles, ants, silver fish, wasps, cockroaches, bats, flies and crickets.

				<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	
					<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Council properties	...	...	231	59	9	
Private properties	...	...	390	116	5	
Farms ... ..	...	...	107	4	—	
Business premises	...	...	48	7	—	
Schools	...	...	5	2	3	

Factories Act, 1961

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1963	...	77
Premises removed from Register during the year	...	1
Premises added to Register during the year	...	3
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1963	...	79

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	76	40	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	79	43	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	3	—	3	—

There were 41 outworkers who were employed in the carding of pins in the District.

Visits and Inspections

Public Health	...	...	...	...	1,062
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	491
Housing	...	...	...	...	1,154
Water	...	...	...	...	151
Drainage	...	...	...	...	438
Caravans	...	...	...	...	133
Land Searches	...	...	...	...	47
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	91
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	60
Factories	...	...	...	...	40
Refuse	...	...	...	...	145
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	4
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	16
Pests	...	...	...	...	108
Street Cleansing	...	...	...	...	68
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	24
Quarries	...	...	...	...	5
Pet Animals Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	4,044

Food condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse)

Fish	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	255 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	100 „
Tinned meat (various)	...	...	...	...	81 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	24 „
Fish	...	...	...	...	10 „
Rice Pudding	...	...	...	...	10 „
Cream	...	...	...	...	4 „
Soup	...	...	...	...	4 „
Steak and Kidney Pie	...	...	...	...	2 „

Ice-cream

Nineteen samples of ice-cream were taken and seventeen were placed in Grade I. There were no laboratory reports on the other two because of the difficulty of testing certain coloured ice-cream. The Ministry of Health was informed of this difficulty and suggested that bacteriological examination should be carried out if thought to be necessary.

Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Manufacture, storage and sale (Cold mix method only was used)							4
Storage and sale of (pre-packed) ice-cream ...							120
Total							<hr/> 124 <hr/>

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Nine slaughtermen’s licences to slaughter animals for food were renewed.

Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse

Carcase meat	2,603 lbs.
4 Bovine heads	272 „
6 Pigs heads	74 „
Bovine and Sheep livers	1,820 „
Lights	214 „

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	1,879	—	134	7,876	3,022	—
Number inspected ...	1,879	—	134	7,876	3,022	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	—	2	9	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	184	—	—	126	28	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	10.0	—	0.6	1.7	1.1	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.1	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr J. A. N. Butterworth, A.I.A.S., reports as follows: —

Water Supply Statistics

A total quantity of 301,756,410 gallons of water was supplied from four main sources during the year ended 31st December, 1963, and shewed an increase of 11,498,410 gallons compared with 1962.

Amount of water consumed during the year :—

					<i>gallons</i>
Greenbottom	...	...	...	...	218,976,000
West Dean R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	57,259,410
Blakeney	...	...	...	...	21,239,000
Gloucester Corporation (Blaisdon and Flaxley)			...	...	4,282,000
<hr/>					
Total	...	...	...	...	301,756,410
<hr/>					

It will be noted from the above figures that the quantity of water supplied from Greenbottom shewed an increase of over 12 million gallons compared with the previous twelve months and that during the same period the amount taken from West Dean Rural District Council decreased by some 6½ million gallons.

Consumption of water throughout the District continued to rise and some difficulty was experienced during the latter part of 1963, when the supply to certain parts of Cinderford had to be restricted.

The Council is aware of the position and is taking all possible steps in an effort to augment existing sources.

Water Supply—Distribution

During the year a 4-inch diameter water main was laid to serve Flaxley village. Connections to individual properties have been made and water is taken through bulk supply from Gloucester Corporation.

A 3-inch main was also laid to serve properties in Vicarage Lane, Churcham.

New Connections to Mains

Connections made to supply mains during the year for new and existing properties totalled 97.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work was completed during the year on the sewer extension to serve properties in the Hawkwell Row area and a further extension was made to the sewer in Hawthorns Road, Drybrook, up to the Gloucestershire—Herefordshire boundary. A scheme has been prepared to serve properties on the Plump Hill Road, Mitcheldean, from which septic tank effluent is at present discharged onto the highway.

Schemes have been approved for the laying of sewers and provision of sewage disposal works to serve the Huntley village and work was expected to start early in 1964.

All sewage disposal works throughout the District continued to receive regular maintenance and inspection and were generally in a satisfactory condition, apart from the small plant serving the Rectory Meadow housing site at Longhope which required attention to the filter beds.

Refuse Collection (Cinderford and Ruspidge)

This service continued to operate satisfactorily even though the volume of refuse to be collected continues to rise steadily. The present method of disposal at the tipping area will have to be reviewed and some improvements will need to be carried out during 1964.

Yew Tree Brake Cemetery

A total of thirty-three burials were carried out at the above Cemetery during 1963.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr L. A. Andrews, D.P.A., the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

PARISH	Pre-War	Post-War up to 1962	Completed 1963		Total
			Houses	O.P.B.	
Awre	—	36	—	—	36
Blaisdon	—	—	—	—	—
Churcham	—	12	—	—	12
Cinderford	80	306	—	—	386
Drybrook	6	132	4	—	142
Huntley	—	8	—	—	8
Littledean	—	69	12	4	85
Longhope	6	24	—	—	30
Mitcheldean	6	127	6	4	143
Ruardean	10	73	—	—	83
Ruspidge	26	86	6	—	118
	134	873	28	8	1,043

Private Dwellings

The number of private dwellings completed during the year was 72, making a total of 618 since 1946.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply

East Dean Mains Supply

Forty-six samples were taken from taps at various points on the mains for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory except one which showed slight contamination.

The yield from the Greenbottom sources became insufficient to meet demands in the latter part of the year, and in spite of the booster pumps working continuously to take water from the West Dean reservoir, it was necessary to restrict the supply in certain parts of Cinderford. The Council's scheme to take water from Perseverance Shaft was held up by investigation, and a search for temporary sources was unsuccessful.

Southern Area Supply

Fifteen samples were taken, two were bacteriologically unsatisfactory, but the others were satisfactory.

Gloucester Corporation Supply

The two samples taken were bacteriologically satisfactory. A report of a full chemical and bacteriological examination done by the Corporation's Chemist, was satisfactory.

The Corporation supplies Huntley, Churcham, the Dursley Cross part of Longhope and a bulk supply is bought by the Council for Blaisdon.

Old Gold Mine Supply

The two samples taken were satisfactory. The chamber around this source was broken into, apparently by potholers.

Sewerage

The Soudley works taking sewage from Cinderford, Ruspidge and Drybrook village continued to be overloaded and further investigations were carried out into the possibility of a new works.

The scheme to sewer Huntley village was approved.

A scheme to sewer Longhope was considered too costly and not required at present in view of the absence of drainage nuisances.

Housing

The pressure of housing remains very great. A number of families lived in very poor conditions. Most of these were applicants for Council houses, but some had been evicted from or left Council accommodation.

The Census figures showed that there were (in 1961) a higher percentage of persons per room than for any other authority in Gloucestershire or indeed for any authority in the South West except Plymouth.

This Rural District has a heritage of many houses which were built of poor stone and which are now decaying. In spite of the closing of collieries pressure on housing is great, partly because many people find it easy to commute to Gloucester daily.

I advised the Council to take advantage of the County Welfare Department's Scheme for dealing with problem families, especially those threatened with eviction for non-payment of rent. The Council accepted no legal obligation to re-house homeless families, but such families have to be housed and rehabilitated in our society.

Slum Clearance : One hundred and thirty-three families were rehoused from unfit properties from June, 1956, to the end of the year.

Improvement Grants : One hundred and forty-five Discretionary and 192 Standard Grants had been made and the properties improved by the end of the year.

Gypsies

The County Council asked the Council to provide a site at Holly Hill and provide services for the gypsies of Crump Meadow. The Council objected to this site and to any such site being in or near Cinderford. The Minister of Housing and Local Government regretted this decision, but the Council re-affirmed it.

Slaughterhouse

Mr Ensor's new slaughterhouse in Valley Road, Cinderford, was completed and used from the 3rd February. The old unsatisfactory one owned by the Council and let to Mr Ensor in Dockham Road, was disbanded. This new slaughterhouse is a great improvement on the old one and is a credit to the enterprise of the owner.

The presence of a slaughterhouse in the District adds to the work of the Inspector. In the absence of a second inspector a firm of veterinary surgeons were employed to do the meat inspection during December.

Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters)

	Blakeney Springs	Greenbottom Supplies				
		St Anthony's Well	Gunns Mills New Spring	Borden Spring	Adit	Deep Well
CHEMICAL (parts per million)						
taken on 10.6.63						
Total Dissolved Solids	237	320	344	358	294	245
Loss on ignition	43	45	54	50	29	18
Mineral Matter	194	275	290	308	265	227
Total hardness	216	256	286	288	226	210
(a) Permanent	94	86	95	86	85	63
(b) Temporary	122	170	191	202	141	147
Chlorine (as Chloride)	12	13	12	13	11	10
Free Ammonia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.69	3.53	3.43	4.19	1.22	0.89
Nitrite Nitrogen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zinc	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iron	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reaction pH	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.9	8.2
BACTERIOLOGICAL, taken on 29.7.63						
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar						
24 hours at 37°C.	3	10	3	0	10	0
72 hours at 22°C.	250	260	240	46	50	7
Coliform bacilli						
(probable numbers per 100 ml.)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bact. coli (type I)	0	0	0	0	0	0

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : J. H. G. DARTERS

Vice-Chairman : M. R. WYMAN

Members (from May, 1963) : Councillors Mrs D. L. Penney, Mrs A. B. Reissner, N. H. Cooke, W. G. Creswick, M. G. Edwards, E. W. Goss, H. Harley, A. F. G. Hopes, J. W. Manson, R. Meredith, C. E. Phelps, T. L. Richards, C. R. Smith and C. A. Walshe.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector : W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Statistics

Population=13,220 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1963).

Area=24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=4,120.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1963, was £363,228.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1963, was £596 4s. 11d.

Number of live Births=234. Number of Deaths=124.

Excess of Births over Deaths=110.

Birth Rate=17.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.14 this gives a corrected rate of 20.2.

Death Rate=9.4 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.13 this gives a corrected rate of 10.6.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	116	110	226	4	4	8	120	114	234
Still Births	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	3	2	5	—	—	—	3	2	5
1-4 wks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 yr.	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2

Number of Houses, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	No. of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply		Properties with water closets connected to	
		(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe	(i) Sewer	(ii) Sept. Tank
Alvington ...	128	108	1	76	28
Aylburton ...	270	241	—	153	75
Hewelsfield ...	140	115	—	6	87
Lydney ...	1,862	1,832	—	1,660	85
St Briavels ...	399	345	—	31	201
Tidenham ...	1,046	1,017	—	384	348
Woolaston ...	275	241	2	116	70
Totals ...	4,120	3,899	3	2,426	894

The figures for the number of dwellings and the connections to the Mains Water Supply were given by Mr D. S. Bennett, A.R.V.A., the Rating Officer, Mr H. I. Spratt gave the number of properties connected to the sewer and Mr W. M. Richards the number of septic tanks.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. M. Richards reports as follows :—

Housing

Housing Acts, 1936-57

Individual Unfit Houses considered by the Council						
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closing Orders made in respect of part of a building	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings accepted not to use house for human habitation						
until rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unfit houses made fit after formal action	...	...	...	...	...	2

Clearance Area

Of the eight houses included in the Post Office Row Clearance Order only four have been demolished.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received.

Overcrowding

Six cases were investigated and relieved by re-housing by the Council.

Public Health Act

In addition minor defects were remedied at 14 houses by owners after consultation.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

	Sites for Individual Caravans	Permanent Residential Sites
Applications received during 1963	15	—
Applications in respect of which a decision was not made during 1962	3	1
	18	1
Applications granted during 1963	5	—
Applications refused during 1963	5	—
Applications in respect of which a decision was not made (during 1963)	3	—
Applications which fell within the first schedule of the Act (no site licence necessary)	—	—
Applications not proceeded with	5	1
	18	1
Transfers	1	—

Number of Sites (in respect of which licences have been granted) in Parishes :—

	<i>Sites for Individual Caravans</i>	<i>Permanent Residential Sites</i>
Alvington	—	—
Aylburton	2	—
Hewelsfield	10	—
Lydney	7	—
St Briavels	2	—
Tidenham	7	1
Woolaston	2	—
	—	—
	30	1
	—	—

Water Samples

Sixty-one samples were submitted to the following Laboratories :—
University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Bristol

Four samples were taken for chemical analysis and four for bac-
teriological examination from the raw waters of the mains supplies :

Ferneyley Supply.
 Tufts Level Supply (two sets).
 Aylesmore (Rodmore) Boreholes Supply.

Public Health Laboratory, Newport

	<i>Bacterio- logical Examination</i>	<i>Free Chlorine Estimate</i>
Samples taken from taps on mains supplies :		
Ferneyley Supply	5	3
Tufts Level Supply	4	3
Aylesmore (Rodmore) Boreholes ...	4	3
Aylburton Village Supply	3	—
Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board	1	1
	—	—
	17	10
Private Spring Supply	9	—
Public Wells	4	—
Bathurst Swimming Pool	4	4
Stream supplying this Pool	1	—
Investigation of seepage of water into a cellar	2	2
	—	—
	37	16
	—	—

Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies not at farm	2
Distributors	23
Distributors with premises outside the area	3

Milk Samples

Eight samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory ; four were of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and four were of Tuberculin Tested Milk. All passed the prescribed tests.

Milk Vending Machines

In the District at the present time there are three Vending Machines which are licensed to sell a Designated Milk.

Sedbury Dairies Ltd.

Number of Producers : 42
Average daily throughput of milk : 2,600 gallons
Bottles (daily average) : 26,500

Ice-Cream

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16

There are 62 premises registered. Four new premises were registered during the year.

Premises registered :

For manufacture (cold mix methods used) ...	...	...	2
For storage and sale (pre-packed) ...	...	...	60

Twenty samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were placed in Provisional Grade I.

Visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or of the condition of the premises.

Meat Inspection

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week and it has been possible to maintain a 100 per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered.

Slaughtering was only carried out at one licensed premises during the year.

During the year ended 31st December, 1963, the following animals were slaughtered :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	108	—	1	615	10	—
Number inspected ...	108	—	1	615	10	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	—	13	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	4.6	—	—	2.1	—	—

Cysticercosis : No animal slaughtered was found to be affected by this infestation.

Tuberculosis : I am pleased to report that no carcase, part of a carcase or organ of the animals slaughtered during the year was affected with tuberculosis.

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

Slaughterhouse, Church Road, Lydney

Work to comply with the new standards commenced on the 5th June and this was completed early in July, and a licence under the above Regulations was granted by the Council.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food visited the slaughterhouse and was satisfied with the alterations and improvements carried out and had no objection to the licence being issued.

Amount of Meat and other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Shoulder of Pork	...	...	...	8 lbs.
5 Bovine Livers	...	...	...	56 lbs.
13 Sheep Livers	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Cod Fillets	...	...	...	13 stone
Cured Fillets	...	...	...	2½ stone
Plaice	...	...	...	1½ stone
Haddock	...	...	...	2 stone
Bream	...	...	...	1 stone
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	24 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year :—

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	...	...	...	6
To slaughter and stun pigs only	...	...	...	9
To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs under supervision	...	...	...	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report for year ended 31st December, 1963

	Type of Property			
	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricl. Premises
Number of Properties inspected by Local Authority as a result of :—				
(a) Notification	3	46	9	3
(b) Survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	—	—	—	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for other purposes)	16	81	27	—
Total inspections including re-inspections	19	219	54	9
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—				
(a) Rats : Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	3	42	3	3
(b) Mice : Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	4	6	—
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	3	46	9	3
Number of Block Control schemes carried out	—	3	—	—

During the year all Council properties, including refuse tips, sewer systems and stores were kept under regular observation and where necessary were treated with either Warfarin baits or Cymag gas.

The Eastmarsh and Tidenham Chase tips still continued to harbour a small number of rats but these were reduced due to regular treatment and localisation of tipping.

As a result of the satisfactory report of the test baiting of the sewers in the Lydney, Tutnalls and Sedbury areas, when thirty-four manholes were tested with a negative result during December, 1962, it was recommended by the Divisional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the next test baiting of the Council's sewers be carried out during November, 1963, when an extensive test baiting of the whole system was carried out over a period of one week, after which the system was found to be clear.

In addition some 46 dwelling houses and 9 business premises as well as 3 farms were treated against rodent infestation, as a result of inspection and notification.

In brief, the decrease in rodent infestations has no doubt been due to close co-operation between the Council's departments and the Council's Rodent Contractors.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1963 :—

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	376	21,560	—	—

Traffic Summary, 1963

Year	Vessels Inwards	Vessels Outwards	Timber Imported	Coal Exported	Other Cargoes
1962	255	258	20,906 tons	—	—
1963	376	362	27,132 tons	—	—
Increase Decrease	121 —	104 —	6,226 tons —	— —	— —

Factories Act, 1961

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities 	2	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority 	47	36	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) 	7	10	—	—
TOTAL 	56	49	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”)

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

Register of Factories

Changes during the year : added 1, deleted nil.

Outworkers

Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Lydney, Glos. : 8

Typrod Ltd., Lydney, Glos. : 5

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-six licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit :—

Number on the Register at the end of 1962	...	...	45
Number of Licences granted by the Council		...	3
Number of Licences not renewed	...	...	2
Number of transfers	...	...	1
Summary : Filling Stations	...	18	
Farms	...	7	
Factories	...	10	
Quarries	...	2	
Business Premises	...	9	Total 46

New underground tanks, pipelines and electrical installations constructed at three new premises were tested in accordance with the requirements of the above Act.

As a safety measure underground tanks at two premises were steam cleaned after removal.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

Two premises were licensed for the keeping of carbide of calcium.

Public Health Acts

Complaints : Of the fifty-six received, twenty-four were for defective drainage systems. Fifty-one were abated after personal approach and the service of preliminary notices ; five remained unabated.

Fairgrounds

Fairs are held annually at Lydney and Tutshill and visits were made to ascertain if an adequate water supply and sanitary accommodation were provided.

Problems did arise with regard to the noise from the generators, disposal of waste water and contents of privy pails and Elsan closets and these were settled amicably.

Unfortunately the Circus and Zoo which had been stationed on the Recreation Ground at Tutshill for one week left the site in such a state as to be a serious nuisance. It was with some difficulty that the Proprietors were traced and informed of the offensive nature of the accumulation of bones, straw, etc., left by them and the action proposed by the Council if such accumulation was not removed forthwith.

Food Premises

Number inspected of the following :—					<i>Inspections</i>
(a)	Slaughterhouse (1)	...	...	...	98
(b)	Butchers' Shops (10)	...	...	...	45
(c)	Grocers' Shops (49)	...	...	...	63
(d)	Catering Establishments (5)	...	...	...	14
(e)	Other Food Premises, including Mobile Shops, School and Factory Canteens (32)	...	...	...	27

Shops Act, 1950

One shop, because of restricted accommodation, was granted a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of Sub-Sections 2(c) and 4(c) of Section 38 of the above Act, in February, 1962.

The shop became vacant in October, 1963, and the Certificate of Exemption was therefore cancelled.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Alterations and improvements were carried out to three shops in the area.

Licensed Premises

Alterations were carried out at two premises with improvements to the sanitary arrangements.

Moore's Swabs

Three Moore's Swabs placed in sewer manholes at Lydney, Aylburton and Alvington on the 5th April were removed on the 8th April and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport, Mon., for examination.

Reports on these were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

Clean Air Act, 1956

The recurrence of the nuisance on the Lydney Industrial Estate from the burning of waste rubber and inferior coal occurred for one short period during the year.

The factory which previously created the nuisance was not involved. Small quantities of waste rubber from another factory and the emission of black smoke from the chimneys of two factories for longer periods than that permitted by the Act were observed.

The managements were approached and necessary action was taken by them to abate the nuisance.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and forty-nine Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, a number of which required identification and inspection.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Under the above Act the Council have been requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for occasional reports as to whether suitable sanitary conveniences are provided for workers employed on farms in their area.

Visits have been made to 127 farms (including smallholdings) and the following is a summary of the acreage and number of workers employed :—

<i>Acreage</i>				<i>No. of farms</i>
From 20 to 100 acres ... ..	...	...	...	72
From 100 to 200 acres ... ..	...	...	...	39
From 200 to 300 acres ... ..	...	...	...	9
From 300 to 400 acres ... ..	...	...	...	6
600 acres (approximately) ... ..	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 127 <hr/>

Number of farms with :—

No worker employed ... ..	...	...	...	56
1 worker employed ... ..	...	...	...	42
2 workers employed ... ..	...	...	...	20
3 workers employed ... ..	...	...	...	7
4 workers employed ... ..	...	...	...	2
				<hr/> 127 <hr/>

It was found that on a number of farms no farm worker was employed, the work being carried out by the owner or occupier and members of the family.

In a number of cases where workers were employed sanitary accommodation was available at the cottages occupied by them.

In other cases where no sanitary accommodation was available for workers the attention of the owners has been drawn to the requirements of the Act.

Seasonal casual gangs are employed on a few farms during the Black-currant and Potato harvesting and temporary sanitary accommodation was provided.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR’S REPORT

Mr H. I. Spratt, M.I.MUN.ENG., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows :—

The water pumped to the District is derived from five sources :—

- (1) Ferneyley Springs.
- (2) Boreholes at Rodmore.
- (3) Tufts Level.
- (4) Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board for parts of the parish of Tidenham.
- (5) Bulk supply from West Dean Rural District Council for Neds Top, Lydney.

The Ferneyley Springs are the main source and supply the parishes of Lydney, Aylburton, Alvington and parts of Woolaston, from the reservoirs at Heaven’s Gate and Chapel Hill, Aylburton. The pumps at Rodmore lift the water from the borehole and it is then boosted to the reservoir at Harthill, St Briavels, to supply the parishes of Hewelsfield, St Briavels, parts of Woolaston and Tidenham.

The supplies from Ferneyley Springs and Rodmore are so designed that the yield from one source can be utilised to supplement the other.

The water from Tufts Level is now used almost exclusively for industrial purposes.

The estimated yields and consumption in gallons were as follows :—

	<i>Ferneyley Springs</i>	<i>Rodmore</i>	<i>Tufts Level</i>
Yield	97,300,000	62,648,000	146,000,000
Amount utilised	91,664,000	62,648,000	30,938,000
Surplus	5,636,000	—	115,062,000

No records are available of the quantity of water supplied to the Army Apprentices’ School at Beachley, or to other properties within the parish of Tidenham, which are in the statutory area of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board.

A small spring supply is still used to supply water to houses in the village of Aylburton.

Waste detection meters installed in the new and old mains have enabled the waste detection programme to continue, and the time spent has been more than compensated by the saving in water and pumping charges.

A new four inch main was laid at Alvington to replace a small pipe, but apart from this no further capital works were carried out during the year.

Investigations were made regarding the possibility of extending the main at St Briavels to feed the northern extremity of the parish of Aylburton, and also to link up with the Heaven's Gate Reservoir, but as the cost of this scheme would have been so great and the number of properties so few, this scheme was not proceeded with.

After I had reported to the Water Supplies Committee concerning the quantity of water available for supply, I was asked to investigate the possibility of securing further sources. A scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to abstract water from St Anne's Well, Rodmore, and to pump this up to the Rodmore Pumping Station where it would be chlorinated and added to the main supply. I feel it is imperative that some steps should be taken as quickly as possible to either secure other sources of water in the District, or to carry out the above mentioned scheme, but because of the imminence of the formation of the Water Board for this area it is doubtful if consent would be secured for this work to be carried out. Observations of the Ministry are awaited on this scheme.

The year has been taken up by maintaining the supply and reducing wastage as much as possible, and I am pleased to state that during the year no restrictions on supply were necessary.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Water Supplies Committee for their understanding and co-operation throughout the year, and also the staff for their ready assistance.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. I. Spratt, the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows :—
 Twenty-four new Council houses were completed during the year and the number of houses which had been erected by the Authority by the end of 1963 is as follows :—

Parish	1963	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War including 1963	Total
Alvington ...	—	14	17	31
Aylburton ...	—	8	36	44
Hewelsfield ...	—	6	4	10
Lydney ...	24	259	296	555
St Briavels ...	—	8	20	28
Tidenham ...	—	50	144	194
Woolaston ...	—	12	39	51
TOTAL ...	24	357	556	913

Nine Council houses were sold during the year to sitting tenants.
 In addition to the above the Council own twelve cottages at Lydney, one at Aylburton and six at Tutshill.

Private Houses completed during the year

Lydney 32, Tidenham 69, St Briavels 8, Woolaston 3, Aylburton 6, Hewelsfield 2, Alvington 1, total 121, bringing the number built since the war to 597.

Improvement Grants

During the year four Discretionary Grants and thirty-three Standard Grants were approved.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply

The waters of the main domestic supplies, Ferneyley Springs and Aylesmore boreholes, were examined chemically and bacteriologically in the raw condition and found to be satisfactory. Also samples from taps were examined bacteriologically.

A crisis arose when one of the borehole pumps broke down in February, during the long and very cold spell, and an emergency pump was used to pump water from the St Anne's Well to the sump. This Well is an unreliable limestone source with variable pollution. A sample showed, at that time, slight contamination and it was, of course, chlorinated.

Samples from taps of this water and of it mixed with Ferneyley water were satisfactory.

Tufts Level is now almost entirely used for industry. It is chlorinated, two chemical analyses of the raw water were satisfactory and two bacteriological examinations showed some pollution, but four samples from taps after treatment were bacteriologically satisfactory.

A sample taken at Tidenham from the water of the South Monmouthshire Water Board was bacteriologically satisfactory.

Two samples from taps on the Aylburton Village supply were bacteriologically satisfactory.

Sewerage

Progress was made on the St Briavels Village scheme. Connections to the Alvington and Woolaston schemes continued. A scheme was prepared for the treatment of sewage of the Tidenham parish and to cope with rapid development. Extensions were planned in the Aylburton and Lydney parishes.

Bathurst Swimming Pool

This continued to be extensively used. Two sets of two samples, one from the deep and one from the shallow ends, gave very satisfactory reports, being free from coliform bacilli and with satisfactory plate counts. Four samples were taken at the same time for free and total residual chlorine and these gave suitable small amounts.

A sample of water from the Park Brook which is used for filling this Pool showed gross pollution and it is unfortunate that this has to be used.

Housing

Very little Slum Clearance has been undertaken since the clearing of the Sedbury Camp. The Slum problem in this Rural District is small, but now that mains water is available in every parish the District requires careful combing for unfit properties.

By the end of the year the Council have given 112 Discretionary and 94 Standard Grants for the improvements of properties.

Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters) taken on 14.10.63

	Aylesmore Borehole	Ferneyley Springs	Tufts Level
CHEMICAL (parts per million)			
Total Dissolved Solids	287	204	345
Loss on ignition	24	30	54
Mineral Matter	263	174	291
Total hardness	216	182	294
(a) Permanent	55	38	75
(b) Temporary	161	144	219
Chlorine (as Chloride)	12	14	13
Free Ammonia	0.01	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.01	0.01	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.92	1.98	2.11
Nitrite Nitrogen	0	0	0
Lead	0	0	0
Copper	0	0	0
Zinc	0	0	0
Iron	0	0	0
Reaction pH	7.6	7.8	7.4
BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar			
24 hours at 37°C.	1	2	6
72 hours at 22°C.	15	10	30
Coliform bacilli (probable numbers per 100 ml.)	2	0	35
Bact. coli (type I)	0	0	0

NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : R. S. CHEW

Vice-Chairman : MRS B. V. W. ROWDEN

Members (from May, 1963) : Councillors J. M. Brooks, W. J. Cummins, F. Dunn, J. T. Harrison, A. E. Hicks, F. G. Knight, R. P. Ovington, W. E. Parry, W. P. P. Price, J. M. Smith, F. A. Windsor-Clive and W. E. Wright.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector : H. S. JENKINSON, A.I.A.S.,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer : T. A. CHETWOOD

Rodent Operator (part-time) : J. FREEMAN

Statistics

Population=8,930 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1963).

Area=40,845 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=2,872.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1963, was £148,181.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1963, was £268 os. 8d.

Number of Live Births=157. Number of Deaths=101.

Excess of Births over Deaths=56.

Birth Rate=17.6 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives a corrected rate of 19.4.

Death Rate=11.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.99 this gives a corrected rate of 11.2.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	80	72	152	1	4	5	81	76	157
Still Births	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Deaths of infants									
under 1 week	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
1-4 weeks	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
4 wks.-1 year	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1

Number of Houses, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	No. of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply		Properties with water closets connected to	
		(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe	(i) Sewer	(ii) Sept. Tank
Bromsberrow ...	70	51	—	—	25
Corse ...	161	137	—	38	75
Dymock ...	383	262	7	46	95
Hartpury ...	240	197	—	21	85
Kempley ...	80	68	—	—	45
Newent ...	1,059	1,045	14	587	165
Oxenhall ...	71	50	—	—	30
Pauntley ...	53	27	—	—	25
Redmarley ...	241	178	—	17	95
Rudford ...	81	67	—	—	45
Staunton ...	120	105	—	—	75
Taynton ...	147	118	—	—	90
Tibberton ...	97	91	—	—	50
Upleadon ...	69	55	—	—	40
Totals ...	2,872	2,451	21	709	940

The Gloucester Corporation Water Undertaking supplied all the properties on the mains except the following :—

Malvern Urban District Council supplies all the 51 properties supplied at Bromsberrow, 52 properties at Dymock and 19 at Redmarley. Also a bulk supply of 28,507,000 gallons was taken from the Gloucester Corporation Supply to serve 646 properties in Newent town.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows :—

Public Health Section
Housing

Housing Act, 1957

PART II

Action under Sections 16/17.

- (a) (i) Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made ... 3
- (ii) Dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made ... 2
- (iii) Dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that the house be made fit ... 1

(b)	Closing orders determined after properties had been made fit (Section 27)	...	...	...	...	2
	Closing order on part of a dwelling determined	...				1
(c)	Unfit houses in which defects were remedied or made fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	53
(d)	Unfit houses in temporary use	...	...	...	...	Nil

PART III

Clearance and Development:—

The Council declared an area in Upper Church Street, Newent, containing seven properties, to be a Clearance area, and this awaited confirmation by the Minister.

PART IV

Overcrowding : Nine cases of overcrowding were remedied by re-housing in Council houses.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Factories Act, 1961

Part I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	20	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	16	—	—
TOTAL	34	50	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”)

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	—	—

Caravan Licences

Thirty-two caravan sites are licensed throughout the District for 40 caravans. There are no large caravan sites.

Water Supplies

Well Supplies

The waters from four wells were examined bacteriologically and found to be unsatisfactory.

Meat

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952

Slaughterhouses

There are three slaughterhouses in the District : at Newent, Dymock and Tibberton, the one at Dymock is used only occasionally. All slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Twelve slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	244	—	7	1,059	348	—
Number inspected ...	244	—	7	1,059	348	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13	—	—	15	17	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	5.3	—	—	1.4	5.7	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	3.4	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat and organs condemned : 387 lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that items of food are unfit for human consumption.

The following was condemned during the year :—

Stewing beef	...	...	32 lbs.
Cooked ham	...	...	13 lbs.
Total	...	...	45 lbs.

Ice-cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the District. Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream ; one is for soft ice-cream and the others are for pre-packed ice-cream.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	15	40	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	34	50	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice-cream Vendors	24	42	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops ...	7	66	(This includes two Mobile Traders from outside the District). Three registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (sausage making, etc.).
Fishmongers ...	2	12	(This includes one Mobile van). There is one fried fish shop in the District.
Bakehouses ...	2	2	
Licensed Premises	19	38	All in good hygienic condition.
Dairies ...	3	12	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale Premises (food manufacture)	2	4	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Stations.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report by the Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer.
 During the year the following work was carried out :—

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments
Local Authority :		
Sewage works and Refuse tips	30	5
Dwelling houses (including Council houses)	512	22
All other (including Business Premises)	120	2
Total	662	29
Agriculture	45	3

Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips

Sewers and Works	Action Taken	Result
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works	Treatment	Minor Infestation Cleared
Cadbury's Sewage Works	Test Baited	Clear
Newent Town Sewers	Test Baited	Clear
Dymock Sewerage System	Test Baited	Clear
Refuse Tips	Action Taken	Result
Malswick Tip	Treatment	Clear
Newent R.D.C. Yard (Salvage Depot)	Treatment	Clear
Kempley	Treatment	Clear
Dymock	Treatment	Clear

When this Council carries out treatment at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.

The Council's Rodent Operator is a full-time employee and undertakes part-time duty in rodent control when necessary. The methods employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Surveyor's Section

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation.

Applications approved :

Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	9

Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings :

Applications approved	...	...	...	51
Grants paid after completion of work	...			43

Number of amenities provided : Baths 38, Wash basins 40, Hot water systems 43, Water closets 35 and Food stores 25.

Refuse Collection

The period of collection in Newent Town is weekly and every four weeks in the remainder of the District.

Disposal is by tipping. Land is reclaimed by filling in depressions such as old marl pits, disused canal beds, at the invitation of farmers and landowners.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Newent

Work was commenced at the latter part of the year on the construction of the sewage disposal works at Cleeve Mill. Completion should be early in 1965. Some proposed private housing schemes in the Town have been held up until the new sewage works are in operation and able to deal with the additional flow.

Corse, Staunton and Dymock

The position at the above works is unchanged.

Hartpury

At the end of the year preparation of a scheme for sewerage Hartpury village and the construction of a new works was in hand.

Public Conveniences

There are two public conveniences in Newent and one at Dymock.

Petroleum Storage

Forty-seven premises were licensed for bulk storage of petrol.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

The following new dwellings were erected :

West View, Newent (Stage I) : 11 dwellings (7 houses, 4 bungalows).

Wynford, Taynton : 7 dwellings (4 houses, 3 bungalows).

Parish	1963	Pre-war	Post-war including 1963	Total
Bromsberrow ...	—	6	4	10
Corse ...	—	6	20	26
Dymock ...	—	16	27	43
Hartpury ...	—	10	6	16
Kempley ...	—	4	12	16
Newent ...	11	54	132	186
Oxenhall ...	—	—	6	6
Pauntley ...	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ...	—	8	16	24
Rudford ...	—	—	4	4
Staunton ...	—	6	6	12
Taynton ...	7	8	7	15
Tibberton ...	—	2	4	6
Upleadon ...	—	6	6	12
TOTAL ...	18	126	250	376

Improvements to Council Houses

Eight pre-war houses, 1 - 6 Wynford Villas, Taynton and 1 and 2, The Pound, Redmarley, were modernised by the installation of water closets, hot water systems and wash-hand basins, and a scheme was prepared for converting from pail closets to water closets the remaining two pre-war Council houses not so converted.

Other improvement works included the undersealing of roofs to protect against driving snow and to increase thermal insulation of 40 pre-war houses.

Private Houses

Thirty-one private houses were erected during the year making a total of 402 during the post-war period.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and fourteen Land Searches passed through the Department for observation and checking.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply

Appended are reports of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of the untreated mains water. It will be noted that it is very free from contamination but rather high in nitrates.

Housing

Up to the end of the year 136 Discretionary and 118 Standard Grants for the improvement of properties were given by the Council.

The Council co-operated with the Welfare Authority on the housing of several problem families. The conditions at Bradford Lane Hostel were much improved.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Mains Waters Supplies taken on the 22.10.63.

	Newent Pumping Station Raw Water	Ketford Pumping Station Raw Water Bore 1	Ketford Pumping Station Final Water Bores 1 + 2
CHEMICAL (parts per million) ...			
Total Solid Residue (dried at 180°C.)	432	661	1,034
Hardness as CaCO ₃			
Permanent	80	97	181
Temporary	300	245	225
Total	380	342	406
Calcium as CaCO ₃	214	206	249
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	166	136	157
Chlorine in chlorides as Cl ...	25	126	261
Oxygen absorbed, 3 hrs. at 37°C.	0.11	0.11	0.11
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.002	0.003	0.002
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.20	5.20	4.30
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.05	0.05	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02	0.01	0.01
Opacity (Turbidity + Colour) ...	0.3	0.4	0.4
Silica	6.8	6.7	6.5
Phosphate as PO ₄	0.014	0.009	0.009
Total Iron as Fe.	0.03	0.03	0.02
Residual Chlorine	0	0	0.10
Potassium as K.	3.80	5.60	7.55
Sodium as Na.	14.0	107.5	202.5
pH Value	7.36	7.39	7.38
BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Plate Count : number of colonies per 1 ml. on Agar at 37°C. in 48 hours	2	4	4
Presumptive Coliform Organisms present in 100 mls. ...	0	0	0
Faecal Coli present in 100 mls.	0	0	0

These examinations were carried out by the Chemist to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board and the results supplied to me by the Gloucester Corporation's Water Engineer.

The Newent source is a well in the new red sandstone, 168 feet deep.

The Ketford source is two boreholes in the new red sandstone, 353 and 320 feet deep.

Watermain extensions were made as follows :—

Corse	...	...	1,575 yards of 6 inch main
Staunton	...	...	2,313 yards of 6 inch main
Hartpury	...	...	1,703 yards of 6 inch main
			509 yards of 4 inch main

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. G. MORGAN

Members : Councillors Miss J. E. Davies, Mrs M. I. C. Tandy, H. Brookes, P. M. George, S. W. Hatton, G. T. D. Jenkins, R. S. Jones, A. W. Price and J. Rooke Johnston.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : C. W. BEDDIS, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned
21.7.63)

Additional Public Health Inspector : J. BUCHAN (from 2.12.63)

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector : E. T. NELMES

Statistics

Population=17,710 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1963).

Area=24,155 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=5,763.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1963, was £357,166.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1963, was £568 9s. od.

Number of live Births=298. Number of Deaths=239.

Excess of Births over Deaths=59.

Birth Rate=16.8 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.04 this gives a corrected rate of 17.5.

Death Rate=13.5 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.04 this gives a corrected rate of 14.0.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	154	129	283	11	4	15	165	133	298
Still Births	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	3
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	3	1	4	—	1	1	3	2	5
1-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3

Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

Parish	No. of Dwell- ings	No. of Cara- vans	Connected to Mains Water Supply			
			Dwelling (i) Direct	Houses (ii)* Stand- pipe	Caravans (i) Direct	(ii)* Stand- pipe
WEST DEAN R.D.						
Coleford ...	1,044	37	1,029	6	30	7
English Bicknor	146	2	132	5	1	1
Lydbrook Parish	781	6	739	20	3	3
Newland Parish	333	5	301	5	5	—
Staunton	68	1	66	—	—	1
WEST DEAN PARISH						
Berry Hill	477	12	438	1	11	1
Bream	776	5	726	1	4	1
Broadwell	516	3	501	2	1	2
Ellwood	167	9	147	—	6	2
Milkwall	244	32	233	—	31	1
Parkend	206	1	199	2	—	—
Pillowell	158	—	139	4	—	—
Viney Hill	130	7	112	—	3	3
Whitcroft	191	—	181	2	—	—
Yorkley	406	—	387	4	—	—
Total W.D. Parish	3,271	69	3,063	16	56	10
Total West Dean Rural District	5,643	120	5,330	52	95	22

* Includes properties with an outside tap.

Mr E. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains water supply for the above table.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. T. Bebb reports as follows :—

Housing

(a) Action under Sections 16/17 of the Housing Act, 1957.					
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	29*
(ii)	Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that				
(a)	the houses would cease to be used for human habitation	...	...	...	1
(b)	the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	...	...	...	1
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	...			9
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Action under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957.					
	Number of demolition orders revoked after properties involved had been made fit	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Action under Section 27 of the Housing Act, 1957.					
	Number of closing orders determined after properties had been made fit	...	...	...	2
(d) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1957.					
	Number of closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	...	...	...	2
(e) Action under Part III (Clearance and Re-development) of the Housing Act, 1957					
		...	...	...	Nil

* Includes four houses owned by the Council and certified as being unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.

Demolition of condemned properties

Twelve houses were completely demolished during the year and a further thirty-nine were in the process of being demolished when the year ended.

The total number of houses made the subject of Orders involving demolition since 1955, when the current Slum Clearance Programme began, now stands at 208, and the total number of houses demolished since that date is 180 (68 in this programme and 112 condemned prior to 1955).

No properties were demolished in default of the owners and accordingly the number demolished in this way since 1955 remains at eight.

Slum Clearance

The first Slum Clearance Programme, which was of eight years duration, terminated at the end of the year. Under it the Council were committed to clear 321 slum properties from their District. Although this number was exceeded, it was necessary to deal with only 304 houses officially as owners of 35 listed properties either demolished or improved them without formal action being necessary.

Details of the programme are as follows :—

Houses dealt with Officially under Housing Act

Subject to Demolition Orders	...	...	...	182
Subject to Closing Orders	...	...	...	66
Subject to Undertakings	...	...	...	30
In Clearance Areas	...	...	...	5
Hutments in ownership of Council	...	...	...	21
				<hr/>
				304
				<hr/>

Houses dealt with Unofficially

Forestry Houses ceased to be used for occupation (with the co-operation of the Forestry Commission)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses renovated without need for formal action	...	...	...	...	...	21
A Crown House closed and subsequently sold for demolition	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cottages owned by the Council from which tenants were re-housed and properties closed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Demolished without action being taken	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cottage burnt down and not rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/>
						35
						<hr/>

Improvement Grants

Properties in respect of which applications for Standard Grants were received were inspected by the Public Health Inspectors and in appropriate cases such additional works as were found to be necessary to satisfy the conditions relating to fitness of the property were required to be undertaken by the applicants.

Eighty-six properties were inspected for this purpose during the year, works additional to the provision of the Standard amenities being required in 84 cases.

This compares with 48 inspections during 1962, with additional works necessary in 46 cases.

During 1963 work on the improvement of dwellings with the aid of Standard Grants was satisfactorily completed in 32 cases.

Water Supply

Forty samples of water were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination and report.

Main Supply

Nine of these were of the raw water at Redbrook Pumping Station and five of the raw water at the Lydbrook Pumping Station.

Twenty-four samples were taken from points on the mains and all were reported to be satisfactory.

In March when the stream at Lydbrook became blocked contamination of the water in the main collecting chamber of the Limekiln Pool Springs resulted. Great care was exercised during the whole period of danger to ensure that contaminated water did not reach the mains. This was done by discontinuing pumping until it was considered that the chamber had cleared itself of contamination and then by ensuring that appropriate chlorination of the water was carried out.

Private Supplies

Two samples were taken. Both were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Public Wells

Although it is possible to obtain water from 21 public wells scattered throughout the District their use by the public is decreasing year by year, and it is anticipated that in the very near future practically no householder in West Dean will have to depend for his domestic supply of water on these very doubtful sources.

Unfortunately it is not possible to close most of the remaining "wells" because, although they are called "Public Wells" they are in fact land springs and the water must of course continue to run.

Milk and Dairies

Register of Dairies

The number of registered dairies remained at four. These are dairies other than those registered with the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food situated at dairy farms.

Register of Milk Distributors

Number on the Register at the beginning of 1963	...	16
Removed from the Register during the year	... ..	1
Added to the Register during the year	... ..	Nil
Total number of registered distributors at the end of the year	... ..	15

In addition, six distributors sold milk in the District from premises outside, and were required to be registered only with the Local Authority within whose area their premises were situated.

The number of dairy farmers selling milk by retail in the District fell to 15.

Milk Sampling

Because of the shortage of staff for a large part of 1963, only three samples were taken. These were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport for examination. Each was reported to be satisfactory.

Ice-cream

Register of ice-cream premises

Number on the register at the beginning of 1963	...	94
Removed from the register during the year	... ..	1
Added to the register during the year	... ..	3
Number of registered premises at the end of the year	...	96

In two cases registration was transferred to incoming occupiers following changes in the occupation of registered premises.

There was one manufacturer of ice-cream in the District, the “ cold mix ” method being used. All other ice-cream was supplied by the large manufacturing companies.

No samples were taken during the year because of inability to obtain supplies of “ dry-ice ” for the despatch of samples to the Laboratory.

Food Hygiene

At the end of the year the number of food premises in the District was as follows :—

Bakers	... ..	7
Butchers	... ..	21
Caterers	... ..	29
Chemists	... ..	3
Fish and Chip Fryers	... ..	7
Fishmongers	... ..	4
General Shopkeepers	... ..	87
Grocers	... ..	18
Sweet Shopkeepers	... ..	14
		<hr/>
		190
		<hr/>

In addition, several mobile shops operate throughout the District, and there are occasionally, one or two stalls in the Market Place, Coleford, during the Summer.

Meat and other Food Inspection

The following food was inspected at various premises in the District, and condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

4 × 4 oz. jars Sandwich Spread	...	...	Staleness
2 × 6 lbs. cans Corned Beef	...	...	Decomposition
2 × 17½ lbs. cans Cooked Ham	...	...	Decomposition
16 lbs. Pork Lengths	...	...	Decomposition
One Sheep Carcase and Offal (weight 54 lbs.)	...	...	Decomposition

Most retailers in the District have an arrangement with their whole-sale suppliers that if there is any suspicion regarding the fitness of any canned food, it is returned to them and consequently the amount of such food surrendered by shopkeepers is small.

Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District and no post-mortem meat inspection was carried out during the year.

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

Statutory Notices

Nuisances were mainly abated without recourse to formal action.

In a District of this kind, it is usually possible to contact the persons responsible for nuisances and the personal approach, then possible, has been found far more satisfactory in securing their abatement than the use of formal notices.

Rivers and Streams

Eight Moore's Swabs were placed in various sewer outfalls and in the Lydbrook Stream.

This was done mainly in March when the Council's main supply of water was thought to be in danger from the overflow of polluted water from the Lydbrook Stream.

Factories Act, 1961

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1963	...	66
Premises removed from Register during the year	...	1
Premises added to Register during the year	...	2
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1963	...	67

Part I

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	67	32	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	67	32	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases ”)

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	—		—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences re- lating to Out- work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	—	—

Section 133

A total of 110 persons was listed as outworkers. One hundred and four of these are employed by a local metal fastener manufacturer, five by a local clothing firm of narrow fabric weavers and one by a London organisation that accepts home knitted garments to their own specifications.

General

Swimming Baths

The mechanical filtration and chlorinating plants at both the Bell's Grammar School and the Berry Hill Secondary School continued to function satisfactorily.

Because of the potential danger, however, considerable care was exercised constantly both by the school staffs concerned and this Department.

Checks for free and residual chlorine and for pH. values were carried out regularly.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Details from Register of Site Licences :—

Site Licences on the Register at the beginning of 1963	...	67
Site Licences registered (including renewals) during 1963	...	8
Site Licences expired or otherwise removed from the Register during 1963	... ..	Nil
Total number of Site Licences on the Register at the end of 1963		73

Included in these are :

Holiday Sites	... ..	3
Residential Sites	... ..	70

The 70 residential site licences authorise the stationing of 136 caravans.

Seven caravans are used on sites, which by nature of their use, are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

In view of the satisfactory servicing arrangements experienced in 1962, the contract with the private firm of pest control specialists was renewed. They continue to undertake for a fixed sum all the operating duties normally undertaken by the Council, including all the treatment of business premises, farms, etc., from the owners of which, if they consider it necessary, they recover any expenses involved.

A summary of the year's work is tabulated below :—

Type of Premises Treated	No. of Premises Treated	Type of Infestation	
		Rats	Mice
Agricultural	2	2	—
Business	14	12	2
Domestic	116	113	3
Local Authority	13	11	2
TOTAL	145	138	7

In addition to this, the bi-annual maintenance treatments were carried out on the Coleford Old Culvert System and the Lydbrook Culvert, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit	...	54
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide	...	3

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

One licence to slaughter animals was issued during the year.

Game Act, 1831

No dealers licences under this Act were issued during the year.

Land Charges Act, 1925

Enquiries were regularly received and answered relating to Official Searches.

Lydbrook Sewerage Scheme

During the course of work on the new Lydbrook Sewer it was decided that laterals should be provided to the boundaries of properties on its line. The Public Health Department was made responsible for deciding which properties should not be afforded facilities for connection based on whether there was a likelihood of the property being condemned, the reasonableness of the cost to any particular house or group of houses and the efficiency of the existing disposal arrangements.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council's refuse collection and disposal service was transferred to the Public Health Department in January. At that time the service was in a state of almost complete disruption because of severe weather conditions which in fact persisted for a further three months.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was issued during the year to use premises in Coleford as a Pet shop.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

A licence, subject to conditions, was issued to applicants at Joyford to keep boarding kennels for dogs.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr H. Parks, M.I.MUN.E., M.I.H.E., M.INST.P.H.E., reports as follows :

Water Supply

The total rainfall for the year amounted to 32.26 inches which is less than the average for the Forest. During the first nine weeks of the year there was no rainfall at all ; arctic conditions prevailed with an appreciable covering of snow. The thaw was very rapid so that the melted snow ran off into the streams and so was lost to the underground resources. Much of the November fall of 8.19 inches fell in 48 hours and was also lost. The other rainfall fortunately fell evenly over the rest of the year so that there was no really dry period during the summer.

The sudden thaw in the early part of March caused an old culvert immediately downstream of the Lydbrook Pumping Station to collapse and led to flooding back to the collecting tank, which became contaminated, and the Station had to be put out of use for 48 hours to allow the normal flow of the spring to clear away the contamination. There was close consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector, and the Station was not brought back into use until bacteriologically satisfactory samples were obtained.

Before the culvert collapsed, plans had already been prepared for the Lydbrook Sewerage Scheme Contractor to do work to minimize the danger of flooding at the Pumping Station. This was subsequently done, and a recurrence of this mishap is not now likely.

Yield of Springs

The yield from the sources continued to diminish from the end of March to October, when the yield at Lydbrook was only 624,000 gallons per day and that at Redbrook, including the supply from " Big Well " was 580,000 gallons per day. With the heavy rainfall in November the yield at Redbrook recovered for a short time to about 1,000,000 gallons and that at Lydbrook to about 6,500,000 gallons per day.

Sources of Supply

The whole of the resources available had to be fully utilised, except for “ Big Well ” at Redbrook for six weeks at the end of the year.

Amount abstracted during the year from each source :

				<i>Gallons</i>
Lydbrook (Lime Kiln Pools)	...	...	...	265,900,712
Redbrook (Knockalls, etc.)	...	...	...	101,106,000
Redbrook (Big Well)	...	...	...	42,742,000
				<hr/>
				409,748,712

The margin of safety between minimum supplies available and the demand was now almost non-existent and because of this, serious concern was felt at the application of the East Dean Rural District Council to pump water from the Perseverance pit shaft at Ruspidge. As the East Dean Rural District Council were unable to give an assurance that this would not affect the yield at the Lime Kiln Pools, the Council objected and an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an investigation in November. The Council gave the East Dean Council an assurance that supplies would be made available to them to the fullest possible extent. Actually the East Dean Council took less water than they did in 1962 although more was available to them.

Pumping Stations

Considerable work was done on mechanical maintenance to all electric motors and to the borehole and submersed well pumps at Redbrook.

Demand

(i) *Domestic*. Following the arctic conditions of January and February, the domestic consumption rose to the alarming figure of 44.32 gallons per head per day. This was accounted for by fractured service pipes and fittings. The conditions were unprecedented with elevated concrete and the steel water towers at Yorkley frozen solid, underground service pipes frozen and conditions so bitter as to make any outside repair work almost a feat of endurance. Great credit is due to all outside maintenance men for their loyalty and devotion to duty under such extreme conditions. More than 1,200 burst pipes were dealt with and many frozen service pipes thawed out during the period ; a “ round the clock ” service was maintained, both in the office and on outside work.

Through an immense amount of waste water detection and repair work, the domestic consumption was reduced to 29.85 gallons per head per day, and the average for the year was 38.28 gallons, which was very considerably in excess of the normal. Waste water detection continued

to be carried out, but the scale of this is limited by the insufficiency of staff trained for this work. I believe many millions of gallons are being pumped to waste each year.

(ii) *Industrial.* The largest industrial demand was from Beecham's Royal Forest Factory (70,894,000 gallons) which was 15 million gallons less than that in 1962, and their peak demand during July was less by some 250,000 gallons per day. In view of the diminished yield and increased domestic demands this was a welcome relief.

Other industrial demands remained more or less constant.

(iii) *Bulk Supplies.* Bulk supplies were afforded as follows :—

East Dean R.D.C. (Pludds Reservoir)	...	...	56,800,000
(The Wyelands)	...	...	459,410
Lydney R.D.C. (Neds Top, Oldcroft)	...	...	280,000
Monmouth Gas and Water Undertaking			
(Redbrook)	...	...	137,000
			<hr/>
			57,676,410
			<hr/>

(iv) *Total Supplies.* The total amount of water supplied during the year for all purposes, together with the corresponding figure for the previous 10 years is as follows :—

1963	...	...	...	409,748,712
1962	...	...	...	376,246,000
1961	...	...	...	331,289,000
1960	...	...	...	272,894,000
1959	...	...	...	279,370,000
1958	...	...	...	232,330,000
1957	...	...	...	234,808,000
1956	...	...	...	235,528,000
1955	...	...	...	231,328,000
1954	...	...	...	202,967,000
1953	...	...	...	147,429,000

Distribution

The Council now have nearly 100 miles of distribution mains which, together with distribution reservoirs, break pressure tanks, fire hydrants, waste water detection, tappings, etc., form a very heavy responsibility.

The laying of approximately 3½ miles of new 4 inch Class “ D ” mains commenced at Lydbrook during the year.

At the close of the year, schemes were being prepared for the laying of new mains at Gloucester Road, Coleford and the Firlands, Bream.

During the year 108 new connections were made to the mains.

At Redbrook Village the pressure has been increased by affording a cross connection with the Redbrook Pumping Station rising main.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Lydbrook Scheme. This was completed at a cost of £173,000 and comprised five miles of 6 inch and 9 inch sewers, a low level pumping station, twin 5 inch cast iron rising sewers and a disposal works to cater for 2,000 persons, with possible future extensions for another 1,100.

It would have been uneconomic to sewer all properties because a number are scattered and the parish is hilly. One hundred and seventy-one Council houses sewered by a small disposal unit were connected to the main scheme and 58 private dwellings and Lydbrook Hospital were connected by the end of the year. The 20 Council houses at Worrall Hill will be connected.

Coleford, Berry Hill and Broadwell Scheme. The Coleford part of this scheme was commissioned in 1952 for a population of 3,200, that for Berry Hill in 1955 for 930 and that for Broadwell in 1958 for 2,100. This was estimated to give a daily dry weather flow of 124,000 gallons (at 20 gallons per head per day). In fact the works had to cope in the year with an average of 360,000 gallons per day in dry weather and in the two weeks ended 21st March, with 494,000 gallons per day, including storm water.

Without storm discharge the works are grossly overloaded making it impossible to dry the sludge on the beds, and a septic tank emptying tanker assisted by removing wet sludge.

Extensions will be carried out in conjunction with those needed to take trade effluent from the Royal Forest Factory.

The planned fourth instalment of the sewerage scheme to cater for 2,100 persons at Tufthorn and at Staunton has not yet been commissioned.

Bream, Pillowell Scheme. Good progress was made with the survey and the details of a scheme costing £518,500 were prepared to cater for a population of 6,400 at Bream, Whitecroft, Parkend, Pillowell and Yorkley. Oldcroft and Viney Hill were not included.

Housing Act, Sewers and Disposal Works

Progressively with the construction of public sewerage, the small Housing Act works are being dispensed with ; at present there are 12 such works serving 596 houses.

A new works was constructed at Sling to enable 12 pre-war Council houses to be modernised.

Storm Water Sewers, Culverts and Areas liable to flood

The main outfall foul sewer at Whitecliff on the Coleford Sewerage Scheme is liable to flood in times of storm. It would seem that the length of outfall sewer to the Newland disposal works is of insufficient capacity and gradient. This will be dealt with in the scheme to take the trade waste discharge from the Royal Forest Factory.

At Coleford, parts of the town are liable to flood in times of heavy storm due to the defective nature of the culverts. From time to time works are done to remedy faults or places of collapse, but a wholesale renewal of these culverts would be of considerable magnitude.

Since the culvert receives some domestic sewage, the nature of this flood water in times of storms is objectionable.

At Lydbrook the culvert which takes the brook is in a bad condition and part of it collapsed causing flooding. The lower part of the village is liable to flooding from the River Wye.

Housing

(a) Private

New houses : Plans for 92 were approved under the Building Byelaws.

Improvements : Plans were approved for the modernisation or improvements to 131 houses ; the Council gave 27 loans and 4 standard and 12 discretionary grants.

(b) Council

New houses : In spite of the severe winter, 30 were built.

Improvements : Twelve Council houses at Sling were modernised and schemes considered for another 126.

Maintenance : 3,000 jobbing repair works were carried out by direct labour. Considerable damage was done by the intense frost and a continuous emergency organisation was set up ; over 1,200 burst pipes were dealt with and over 100 new water closet pans fixed, as well as repairs to water closet cisterns, hot water cylinders, etc.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

Council Houses

PARISH	1963	Pre-war	Post-war including 1963	Total
Coleford	12	166	257	423
English Bicknor	—	8	16	24
Staunton	—	—	11	11
NEWLAND				
Clearwell	4	10	18	28
Redbrook	—	34	—	34
LYDBROOK				
Lydbrook	—	52	—	52
Joys Green	3	20	123	143
WEST DEAN				
Berry Hill	1	50	57	107
Bream	4	80	123	203
Broadwell	—	64	50	114
Ellwood	—	6	—	6
Milkwall	—	6	38	44
Parkend	—	12	41	53
Pillowell	—	12	—	12
Viney Hill	—	—	—	—
Whitcroft	—	30	24	54
Yorkley	6	42	85	127
Total	30	592	843	1,435

Of the 30 dwellings completed and occupied during 1963, 29 were one-bedroom type bungalows, 27 of which were let to tenants of pensionable age, the remainder being let to handicapped persons.

In addition to the number of dwellings set out above, the Council own eight other units of accommodation, all of which are occupied.

Private Houses

Forty-four were completed during the year, making a total of 382 during the post-war period.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water

Regular samples were taken from taps on the mains water ; all were bacteriologically satisfactory.

Samples of the raw waters at Redbrook and at Lydbrook usually showed some contamination ; chemical analyses were satisfactory.

The vulnerability of the Lydbrook springs to pollution is pointed out ; this water should be stored before passing into the mains.

Sewerage

Number of dwellings connected to public sewers at the end of the year :—

Coleford	...	...	...	...	781
Berry Hill Area	...	...	...	...	137
Broadwell	...	...	...	...	176
Lydbrook	...	...	...	...	252
					<hr/>
					1,346
					<hr/>

In addition to this 596 Council houses are connected to Housing Act sewers and so to small disposal works.

Housing

This has been improved in the following ways :—

- (i) The Council has built 843 houses since the end of the war making a total of 1,435 Council houses.
- (ii) Three hundred and eighty-two private houses have been built since the end of the war.
- (iii) Good progress has been made with Slum Clearance, 304 houses were dealt with from 1955 to the end of the year.
- (iv) During the period November, 1951, to the end of the year, 297 properties were improved by Discretionary Grants and 122 by Standard Grants since these started in January, 1960.
- (v) Since May, 1945, the Council made 1,069 advances for the purchase or improvements of properties.

Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters) taken on 13.6.63

	Lydbrook Springs	Redbrook Big Well	Redbrook Other Sources
CHEMICAL (parts per million)			
Total Dissolved Solids	319	319	359
Loss on ignition	36	27	32
Mineral Matter	283	292	327
Total hardness	292	294	338
(a) Permanent	121	75	122
(b) Temporary	171	219	216
Chlorine (as Chloride)	14	15	14
Free Ammonia	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.01	0.02	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.01	1.98	2.71
Nitrate Nitrogen	0	trace	0
Lead	0	0	0
Copper	0	0	0
Zinc	0	0	0
Iron	0	0	0
Reaction pH	7.8	7.7	7.7
BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar			
24 hours at 37°C.	1	2	7
72 hours at 22°C.	17	4	15
Coliform bacilli (probable numbers per 100 mls.)	0	3	8
Bact. coli (type I) (per 100 mls.) ...	0	1	8

